

## HUSH HUSH

THIS kinky couple love nothing better than throwing private parties where people walk around naked. And there were several famous faces who turned up to the last one – including a well-known model and soccer star. As well as indulging in a light bit of bondage, guests also participate in the reverse of strip poker. And we thought they were such an innocent pair.

## YULE BE OK BRIT, HONEST

IT'S no wonder **Britney** is having a nail-biting time. Nervous-looking **Brit**, pictured left with husband **Kevin Federline**, is said to be "stunned" after his ex and mum of his two children **Shar Jackson**, snubbed a Christmas Day invite.

An insider said: "Britney had offered to lay on a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, but **Shar** turned her down, explaining she's got other plans for herself and the kids." **Britney**, 23, will spend the day with **Kevin**, 26, her mum **Lynne**, 46, and sister **Jamie Lynne** at her home in Malibu, California.

## Bust wishes to you, Chris

WE hope **Christina Aguilera** invested in some good quality boob tape when she went out to celebrate her 24th birthday. She revealed her more-than-ample cleavage at Hollywood's Spider Bar. The sexy blonde – who is looking more and more like a gangster's moll – parted with her boyfriend **Jordan Bratman**, 25, and a legion of lusty lads. And Aggie got the shock of her life when two male strippers took their kit off. But we're sure she handled the situation...

## IT'S ORL WRONG MATE

MEMO to **Orlando Bloom**: **Jay Kay** can get away with a trilby, you shouldn't bother.

The Brit-born Lord Of The Rings star, 27, had enjoyed a romantic meal at The Ivy with other half, actress **Kate Bosworth**, 21, before being caught on camera, right.

We have to admit that sexy US babe **Kate** looked lovely. She even signed autographs for fans waiting in the rain. Aaaah.

## SPOTTED

IN London: **Ricky Gervais** laughing with pals in Soho House, **Patsy Kensit** boarding a Leeds-bound flight at London City and **David Walliams** buying bottled water in Fresh & Wild, Camden. **Delta Goodrem** purchasing a box of biscuits in Harrods, **Craig David** walking down Oxford Street listening to music and EastEnders studmuffin **Joe Swash** with two pals in Toast, Hampstead.

Picture: XPOSURE/BARES-CABARAZZI



Picture: BIGPICTURESPHOTO.COM

## Sitting pretty, Chris

SMUG or snug – we can't work out which best describes **Chris Evans** as he was comforted by two beautiful blonde pals at his market stall in Camden, north London.

Despite media mogul **Chris**, 38, being "devastated" that his wife, **Billie Piper**, 22, wants a divorce, he's turned to his female friends to comfort him on Christmas Day.

An insider said: "Chris will spend the day with friends but his close pal, Heart FM presenter **Harriet Scott** will be staying with him to see he's okay." He's a very lucky lad.

## Ulrika in book bar

TV BABE Ulrika Jonsson has admitted she tried to stop her husband reading her autobiography.

And Lance Gerrard-Wright, 35, says he found it tough seeing details of her affair with England boss Sven Goran Eriksson.

Ulrika, 36, said: "I asked Lance not to read the book - but I went away for a few days and he said: 'I've read it.'"

The couple, who met on TV show Mr Right, tell all on The Keith Barret Show Christmas Special on BBC2 at 10pm tonight.

## 'Terror' 4 are held

FOUR men have been arrested for allegedly plotting to set up a terrorist base on the holiday isle of Lanzarote.

They were being questioned yesterday by Spanish intelligence officers in Madrid.

One of the four is the leader of a mosque.

The other three are alleged to be members of the Moroccan Islamic Combatants' Group which was blamed for the bombing of trains in Madrid in March.

# IT'S MAN BLUE



LOSERS: United's Wayne Rooney, Phil Neville, Darren Fletcher and Kieron Richardson look so grim



## Idols' glum do as rivals get fancy

■ by PAUL MALLEY

**MANCHESTER City scored a win over their Old Trafford rivals yesterday - in the Christmas parties league.**

Manchester United aces arrived at their bash in the city's trendy

Prohibition Bar on Saturday night looking short of festive spirit.

Dressed in dull casual clothes, 19-year-old Wayne Rooney and pals seemed more like they were off to a funeral - despite earlier beating Crystal Palace 5-2.

Meanwhile, players from the blue half of the city showed them how to party in style by arriving at the swanky Lowry Hotel in fancy dress.

### Disco

Irish duo Richard Dunne, 25, and Willo Flood, 19, stole the show as Batman and Robin.

But they were given a run for their money by England hot-shot Shaun Wright-Phillips, 23, as Bob Marley, 22-year-old midfielder Joey Barton as a mullet-haired DJ and French defender Sylvain Distin, 27, in seventies disco kit.

One onlooker said: "They looked really up for it. Their 1-0 win over Bolton must have done the trick."

"The costumes were excellent, although David James's sheikh outfit was a bit naff."

CITY



WINNERS: Batman Richard Dunne and Robin Willo Flood with, from left, groovy Joey Barton, dreadlocked Shaun Wright-Phillips, sheikh David James and disco ace Sylvain Distin

Pictures: CHRIS NEILL, GERARD COUSANS and EAMONN CLARKE

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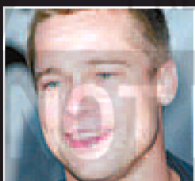
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# Express Star Charts



BLAZING: Superstar Brad

THERE was red-hot news for Hollywood hunk Brad Pitt – but not the kind he likes. He had to run from a fire at the London hotel where he was planning to hold a press junket for his latest film Ocean's 12. Corrie star Nikki Sanderson also made the wrong kind of headlines when she was spotted stumbling out of the Street's Christmas party.

Our OK! Celebrity Chart is based on stars' coverage in Express newspapers – your Daily Star, our sister papers the Daily Express and Sunday Express – and OK!, Britain's best celebrity magazine. It's THE guide to who's hot and who's not that's got everyone talking.

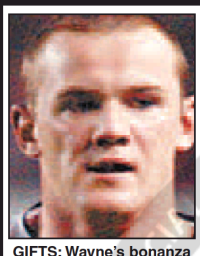
## TOP 40 ALBUMS



- 1 (2) GREATEST HITS Robbie Williams
- 2 (3) IL DIVO Il Divo
- 3 (1) HOW TO DISMANTLE AN ATOMIC BOMB U2
- 4 (4) ULTIMATE KYLIE Kylie Minogue
- 5 (6) 10 YEARS OF HITS Ronan Keating
- 6 (7) SONGS ABOUT JANE Maroon 5
- 7 (11) SCISSOR SISTERS Scissor Sisters
- 8 (10) HOPES AND FEARS Keane
- 9 (12) ALLOW US TO BE FRANK Westlife
- 10 (5) ENCORE Eminem
- 11 (8) GREATEST HITS Shania Twain
- 12 (15) AMERICAN IDIOT Green Day
- 13 (9) WHAT WILL THE NEIGHBOURS SAY Girls Aloud
- 14 (14) TIME TO GROW Lemar
- 15 (18) UNWRITTEN Natasha Bedingfield
- 16 (19) DESTINY FULFILLED Destiny's Child
- 17 (13) GREATEST HITS – MY PREROGATIVE Britney Spears
- 18 (26) LOVE SONGS Phil Collins
- 19 (16) BEST OF Blue
- 20 (17) LIVE – A TICKET FOR EVERYONE Busted
- 21 (22) ANASTACIA Anastacia
- 22 (20) MIND BODY & SOUL Joss Stone
- 23 (21) PLATINUM COLLECTION Genesis
- 24 (23) SINGLES Travis
- 25 (25) ALL THE BEST Tina Turner
- 26 (26) CALL OFF THE SEARCH Katie Melua
- 27 (24) ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR McFly
- 28 (32) THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM Aled Jones
- 29 (28) STARDUST – THE GREAT AMERICAN Rod Stewart
- 30 (29) TWENTYSOMETHING Jamie Cullum
- 31 (35) LOVE ANGEL MUSIC BABY Gwen Stefani
- 32 (30) FINAL STRAW Snow Patrol
- 33 (33) SECOND NATURE Katherine Jenkins
- 34 (31) THE GREATEST HITS Wet Wet Wet
- 35 (-) HOT FUSS Killers
- 36 (37) WHO KILLED THE ZUTONS Zutons
- 37 (-) THANK YOU Jamelia
- 38 (34) CONFESSIONS Usher
- 39 (36) NUMBER ONES Bee Gees
- 40 (-) O Damien Rice

## THE OK! CELEBRITY CHART

- 1) WAYNE ROONEY: The England star's girl Coleen McLoughlin runs up a £50,000 bill for Christmas presents.
- 2) VICTORIA BECKHAM: The mum-to-be has talks about posing naked for a mag.
- 3) CHARLOTTE CHURCH: The singer enjoys a 48-hour drinking session with boyfriend Kyle Johnson
- 4) BRAD PITT: The 41-year-old Hollywood star flees from a fire at a London hotel.
- 5) GIRLS ALOUD: Nicola Roberts, Nadine Coyle, Cheryl Tweedy, Kimberley Walsh and Sarah Harding meet Prince Charles at the Royal Variety Performance.



GIFTS: Wayne's bonanza

- 6) STEVE BROOKSTEIN: The X Factor finalist is accused of stalking his ex-girlfriend.
- 7) NIKKI SANDERSON: The sex siren is seen stumbling out of Corrie's Christmas bash.
- 8) SUZANNE SHAW: The ex-Hear-Say singer and Darren Day celebrate their son's birth.
- 9) SHARON OSBOURNE: Her son Jack begs her not to do another series of X Factor.
- 10) GERI HALLIWELL: The star is rude to guests at a charity ball in London.

# GIPSY: I'VE GOT HOUSE ALLERGY

A GIPSY who claims he is "allergic" to houses has been allowed to move his caravan on to a beauty spot.

The decision has outraged people living near Henry Smith's two-acre plot of greenbelt land.

They are convinced the one-bedroom caravan will be a blot on the landscape.

A Government inspector overturned a council ban after hearing the labourer suffered from an "aversion

■ by PAUL MALLEY

to bricks and mortar". Mr Smith, 20, said: "I'm used to living in the open air. Being in a house makes me claustrophobic."

"It's what you have been brought up with and what you are used to."

### Evicted

Mr Smith, his 19-year-old pregnant wife and their 18-month-old son, had been evicted from the site which they own in Betchworth, Surrey, after living there without permission.



VICTORY: Henry Smith

## Girl cop's stab terror

A MAN has been charged with attempted murder after a police officer was attacked with a knife.

The officer, in her late 20s, was saved by body armour during the incident in Castleford, West Yorks.

A 20-year-old man will appear before Pontefract magistrates today.

## Hammy's home safe

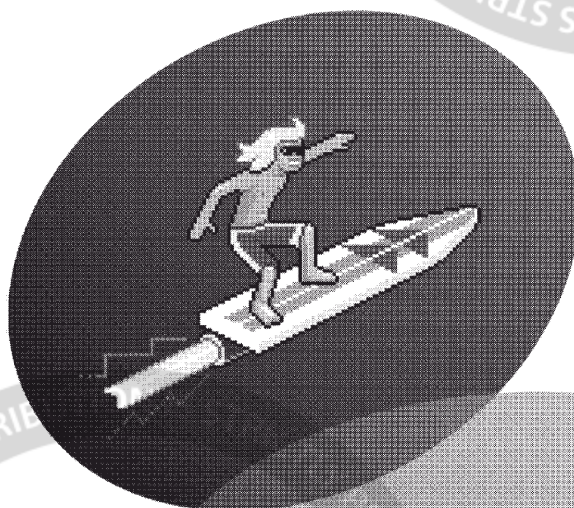
THE Queen's Brickyard Wood on the Isle of Wight has been saved from developers.

The location inspired kids' TV favourite Tales Of The Riverbank starring Hammy the hamster.

Author Dave Ellison led protests.



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## TOP 40 SINGLES

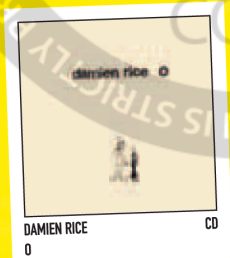


- 1 (1) DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS Band Aid 20
- 2 (-) FATHER AND SON Ronan Keating
- 3 (2) I BELIEVE IN YOU Kylie Minogue
- 4 (3) YOU CAN DO IT Ice Cube ft Mack & Ms Toi
- 5 (-) I GOT YOU BABE/ROCK POP Merrion/McCall/Kensit
- 6 (4) LOSE MY BREATH Destiny's Child
- 7 (7) IF THERE'S ANY JUSTICE Lemar
- 8 (7) BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS Green Day
- 9 (5) I'LL STAND BY YOU Girls Aloud
- 10 (-) I HAVE FORGIVEN JESUS Morrissey
- 11 (9) UNWRITTEN Natasha Bedingfield
- 12 (10) WHAT YOU WAITING FOR Gwen Stefani
- 13 (-) I CANNOT GIVE YOU MY LOVE Cliff Richard
- 14 (11) TILT YA HEAD BACK Nelly & Christina Aguilera
- 15 (13) OUT OF TOUCH Uniting Nations
- 16 (12) DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT Snoop Dogg ft Pharrell
- 17 (14) JUST LOSE IT Eminem
- 18 (8) MISUNDERSTOOD Robbie Williams
- 19 (19) NUMB/ENCORE Jay-Z & Linkin Park
- 20 (17) CAR WASH Christina Aguilera ft Missy
- 21 (-) RADIO GAGA Electric Six
- 22 (-) YOU KNOWS I LOVES YOU BABY Goldie Lookin Chain
- 23 (22) VERTIGO U2
- 24 (23) CALL ON ME Eric Prydz
- 25 (16) IRISH SON Brian McFadden
- 26 (15) OBSESSION (SI ES AMOR) 3rd Wish
- 27 (-) THE BLOWER'S DAUGHTER Damien Rice
- 28 (-) JUST CAN'T WAIT 100 Percent
- 29 (20) RIDE IT GERI Innocent
- 30 (25) DJ/STOP Jamelia
- 31 (24) CONFESSIONS PART II Usher
- 32 (26) THE WEEKEND Michael Gray
- 33 (21) KILAMANGIRO Babyshambles
- 34 (18) BABY IT'S YOU JoJo ft Bow Wow
- 35 (29) ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR McFly
- 36 (-) ALWAYS BLINK 182
- 37 (-) CONFUSION Zutons
- 38 (-) DO THE CAN CAN Skandi Girls
- 39 (27) SUNDAY MORNING Maroon 5
- 40 (35) CURTAIN FALLS Blue

# This Week's Virgin Mega Deals



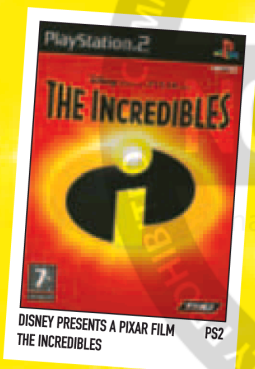
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## Ana's Claus are out

**SCISSOR Sisters** siren **Ana Matronic** wants to make a video game based on her hatred of Christmas songs.

The Laura warbler, 31, insisted: "I absolutely hate Christmas music. 'I've been inspired to create a video game called Santa's Rampage. You'll play an in-store Santa that

goes absolutely crazy ballistic and has a killing spree."

The outlandish hitmaker, who releases *Filthy/Gorgeous* on January 3, told NME: "I would definitely do the whole traditional pagan winter solstice thing. I'd invite all my favourite witches but definitely not Santa. He is not allowed."



# Brave Dan reliving his crash hell



LUCKY ESCAPE: Daniel

**DANIEL Bedingfield** has returned to the site of his near-fatal car crash to reflect on life and inspire himself for his 2005 live tour.

I can reveal that brave Dan, 25, plans to spend Christmas in his New Zealand homeland, despite cheating death there less than 12 months ago.

A source said: "This year has been one of the biggest for Daniel."

"He overcame a broken neck and managed to write, record and promote a new album, a lot of hard work which some people might have shied away from."

"He's really proud of what he's achieved

## EXCLUSIVE

and sees going home as a chance to look back and really take in all that has happened.

"The year has passed so quickly and he hasn't really stopped to take stock."

Daniel broke two bones in his neck in January when the Jeep he was driving flipped near Whangarei.

The star will never make a full recovery but he remains upbeat, despite being told that he will have to continue with physiotherapy for life.

The singer, who shot to the top of the charts with debut single, *Gotta Get Thru This*, has also told of suffering a fuzzy head, which he worried would affect his songwriting capabilities. Against the odds, and while sister **Natasha**, 22, was storming the charts in her own right, Daniel made a comeback with November's *Second First Impression*.

## Energy

My source continued: "Since Daniel came out of hospital he hasn't stopped working."

"He wants to put all his energy into his 2005."

"By going back to New Zealand and facing up to what happened he can move on to the New Year and be inspired to put together his best shows yet."

After witnessing a special fan-only gig for Capital radio last month, I reckon Daniel's tour, which gets under way in Nottingham on March 8, will be a must-see.

His next single, *Wrap My Words Around You*, is a proper cracker too.

## Jentina backs away...

**ROOSTER** frontman **Nick Atkinson** has thanked **Hot** for getting **Jentina** off his back.

The rocker was under the impression the gipsy rapper wanted him flat on his, so she could have her wicked way with him.

Nick, 24, told me in October that Jentina had invited him back to her tour bus when they met at CD:uk but he wasn't interested.

He explained: "I have not heard hide nor hair of that young lady since your story. She's left me alone thank God. She's a very nice girl but... no."

As you can see from my photo Jentina, 19, is very fit indeed.

She's been canoodling with the **Prodigy's Keith Flint** for nearly two years and hit back at Nick's claims saying he "needs a good kick in the bollocks".



WHY did **Westlife** bother having their own ITV1 show to plug their **Rat Pack** album - then mime? The efforts on **She's The One** were what I'd have expected of a bad boyband like **D-Side**, not multi-million sellers. The only highlight was the **Bobby Darin** turn by **Kevin Spacey**, 45, from his new movie *Beyond The Sea*.

JOE MOTT'S  
AWARD WINNING

Edited  
by KIM  
DAWSON

# Moz mistletoe n' whine

OH look, it's nearly Christmas and here's Morrissey entertaining a crowd with a spot of carol singing.

Actually, he wasn't quite jingling bells at Earls Court in London on Saturday. Instead the miserable Scrooge turned up kitted out as a priest and sang his new single I Have Forgiven Jesus.

I haven't forgiven Mozza, 45, for besting us with more of his dreary music in 2004, when he released his first album for seven years, You Are The Quarry.

If only he'd made it a Silent Night and done us all a favour.

And before you start e-mailing me, Morrissey fans, think on this.

Your guy has pushed **Cliff Richard** out of his Top 10 midweek Yuletide position.

Everyone's gran loves a bit of Sir Cliff, 64, with the Queen's Speech and a drop of sherry.

You can't say the same for Steven Patrick here. Don't argue. I am right and you know it.

Sometimes it hurts, it really does.



Picture: ANGELA LUBRANO

**BOMBSHELL:**  
Sexy blonde  
Gwen Stefani  
looks a million  
dollars in her  
glamorous  
golden film  
star pose



Picture: MIRAMAX

## Stefani's sad songs

**GWEN Stefani** says personal nightmares give her the best material to write great songs.

Gwen, who's taken time out from **No Doubt** to go solo, was shocked when husband, **Bush** frontman **Gavin Rossdale**, 37, was revealed to have a secret lovechild. But she's tackling trauma

head-on by scribbling tunes. Gwen, 35, said: "My songs are my diaries and some of my best ones have come out of times when I've been going through a personal nightmare."

My picture shows her vamping it up Marilyn Monroe style in the new film *The Aviator*.

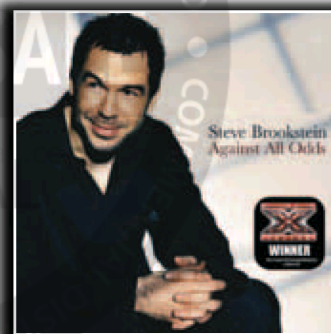
**RAPPER**  
**Xzibit** offered punters at a London night-club the chance to win a bling car - before driving off in it. The star was at the **Blaupunkt** party at **Cirque** on Saturday night, where clubbers could throw dice to win the motor. No-one got the lucky number and he was clearly in a hurry to pimp someone else's ride.



**SHANE Richie**, left, is taking tips from punk band **Hypo Psycho** after news that **Simon Cowell** offered him an album deal.

Richie, 40, said he'd rush out and buy their new single, **Bored**. But, like cast mate **Leslie Grantham**, I hope he has internet access - the track is only available as a download.

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OUT TODAY

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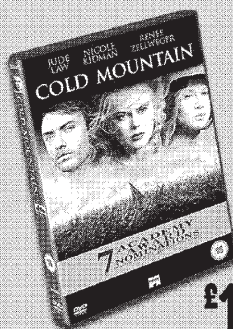
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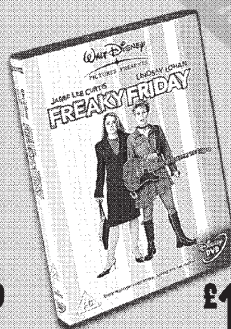
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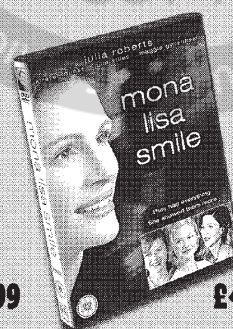
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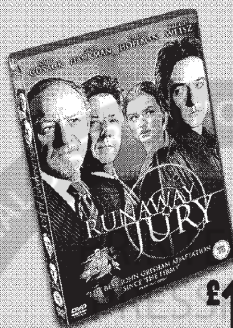
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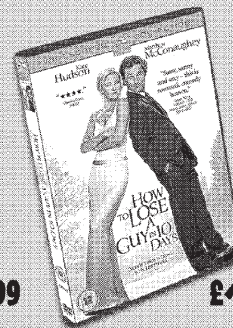
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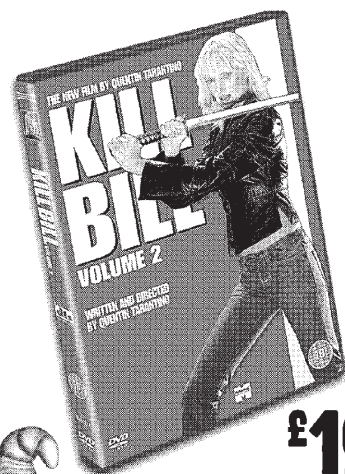
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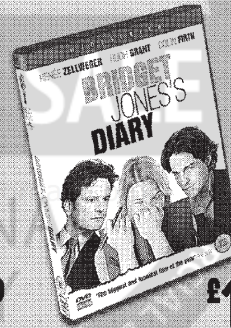
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# FRIGHT NIGHT

**THIS** is the catfight on a factory roof that sees crazed Karen McDonald plunge out of Coronation Street. In a Christmas Day cliff-hanger, fans will watch tormented Karen go on the rampage after losing the baby she'd been longing for. She snatches love rival

by JOHN MAHONEY

Tracy Barlow's daughter Amy and takes her on a terror trip before torching the motor which husband Steve won on a TV show. Tracy, played by Kate Ford, 28, eventually confronts Karen on the roof of Mike Baldwin's factory.

And as Tracy lashes out with a wooden stake, Karen plunges over the edge. It's a spectacular end for Karen - played by Suranne Jones, 25, who is leaving the ITV soap. An insider said: "They are explosive scenes. Tracy is prepared to kill Karen if that's what it takes."

**SOAPER  
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**OVER THE EDGE:** Karen plunges off the roof after Tracy lunges at her with a lump of wood

**TV BABE SARAH'S A REAL ICE QUEEN: PAGE 26**

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# HOL HORROR SMASH KIDS FIGHT FOR LIFE

**THREE children were fighting for their lives last night after a holiday road crash that killed their dad, aunt and uncle.**

Tony Cole, seven, and his sisters Phoebe, nine, and Faith, five, were critically injured in the Florida tragedy. Their father Simeon Cole, 41, died in

by PAUL MALLEY

hospital. Driver Charles Babson, 40, and his 41-year-old wife Dawn of Mitcham, Surrey, died instantly when their hired people carrier collided with a fuel tanker.

The Babsons' nine-year-old son Robert escaped serious injury. Mr Cole's wife Denise and young daughter Chloe were also on the family holiday which had begun just 24 hours earlier.

But they had not joined the Saturday trip to buy food at a grocery store.

Yesterday, the mum and her child were being comforted by British consulate staff.

## Missed

The crash happened on a main highway in Polk County, near Orlando.

A Florida police spokesman said Mr Babson, an IT expert, had missed the exit for the store and had tried to turn.

But the people carrier was caught in the tanker's path. The US driver was unhurt.

The Coles' nanny Anja Strelkova, 20, said at their home in Dagenham, Essex, yesterday: "I cannot believe what has happened. This is so sad."

"They are a lovely family and were so happy to be going to America. I cannot imagine how it will be for the family now."



CRASH HELL: Phoebe, Chloe and Faith



TOP SPOT: Bob Geldof

## Crimbo No.1 is a curse

HAVING A Christmas No.1 is a curse, say pop experts. And they reckon current acts can thank Bob Geldof for sewing up this year's top spot with Band Aid 20.

Stars who have come a Crimbo cropper include:

- Whitney Houston, who had her last No.1 at Christmas 1992 with I Will Always Love You.
- East 17, who split after their biggest hit Stay Another Day in 1994.
- Michael Jackson, who fell from grace after Earth Song in 1995.
- The Spice Girls, who broke up after aptly-named Goodbye in 1996.
- Even Slade said 1973's Merry Xmas Everybody hindered their career.

## Thrived

Head of the National Institute for Popular Music Mike Jones said of the Christmas curse: "It's a real phenomenon. That's why a lot of acts don't do Christmas songs now."

The exception is Sir Cliff Richard who has thrived with three No.1 hits - Mistletoe and Wine in 1988, Saviour's Day in 1990 and Millennium Prayer.

**New charts: Page 15**

WRESTLING king The Rock will star in a new Hollywood drama. The 32-year-old hunk - real name Dwayne Johnson - will star in Gridiron Gang as real-life probation officer Sean Porter who started an American football team of teenage killers.

## Breast in class

SCHOOL leavers are to study for qualifications in bra-fitting.

Students will face 30 hours of training and exams to achieve a BTEC in Lingerie Fitting.

High street bosses say many women don't know how to buy the right bra - and most staff haven't a clue how to help.

The specialist course is the brainchild of Debenhams head of development Michelle Wallace. She said: "We want our staff to have a more rounded knowledge. Bra-fitting is a very serious and specialist area. It takes a special sort of skill and is nothing to snigger about."

## 40 UP FOR CROOK

A BURGLAR shot by farmer Tony Martin has notched up his 40th conviction. But Brendon Fearon, 34, failed to appear at Newark, Notts, to answer motoring charges.



Pictures: SOLARPIX.COM

## Not another bird, Becks

DAVID BECKHAM gave this mystery brunette a kiss on the cheek as he arrived at Real Madrid's Bernabeu stadium at the weekend.

But don't worry, Posh - she just works for the Spanish giants.

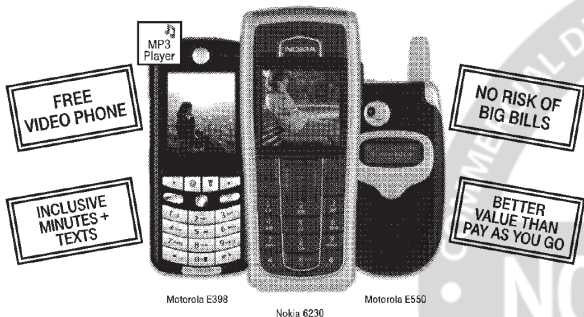
Becks had just returned from a 24-hour break in Venice, Italy, with pregnant wife Victoria, 30.

Which is probably why the England skipper, 29, looked so relaxed as he chatted with the pretty staff member before heading into the stadium.



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STAR STYLE



**TRAFFIC-STOPPERS:**  
Girls Aloud on top  
form at the Royal Variety  
Performance last week



**UPFRONT:** Gorgeous Brit Kelly  
Brook reveals a couple of rea-  
sons why she's so hot in Hollywood

# Get REDDY for Xmas

IF you want to sizzling this Christmas, you'd better slip into a red-hot number.

It's the colour all the sexiest stars are sporting as they glam it up in sensational style.

That little black dress has certainly been banished to the back of the wardrobe this year. And one look at these scarlet women is enough to tell you why.

Flame red is the colour that glows with confidence and

■ by VICKY LISSAMAN

always sets pulses racing – as well as those cameras flashing.

So if you really want to flaunt it, copy the looks of these gorgeous girls and flash the flesh in red for that festive bash.

It's the traditional colour for Christmas, after all. But Santa suits never looked anywhere near as sexy as these eye-popping outfits.



**TAKE THE PLUNGE:**  
Emmerdale babe  
Amy Nuttall's flaming  
locks match her dress



**BIG FRILL:**  
Sexy R'n'B  
star Ashanti  
looks a sensa-  
tion in her red  
silk num-  
ber.



**STRICTLY GLAM:**  
TV dish Natasha  
Kaplinski looks red-hot  
on the red carpet



**DOWN TO A T:** Actress Jodi Albert  
looks a treat in her thigh-skimming  
mini and crisp white charity T-shirt

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# CHARLIE CATCHPOLE

HE'S BRITAIN'S MOST SWITCHED-ON TELLY CRITIC



## C4 pull off Heist

### THEY'VE NICKED VIEWERS

**IT'S the crime of the century. The big job they all said couldn't be done.**

A bunch of chancers from Channel 4 have nicked a cool couple of million viewers from right under the noses of the BBC and ITV. Sweet.

Last week, it was reported that the audience share for each of the main three channels had fallen to an all-time low.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 and their partners in crime at Five were having it away on their toes with a big fat slice of the action. Cushty.

#### Target

The key to Four's success has been reality shows with a twist, such as **Faking It** and **Wife Swap**, which have now been joined by the brilliantly conceived and cleverly executed crime caper **The Heist** (Tuesdays).

Each week, five former villains who are now going straight meet to plan and carry out a robbery.

For the first show in the series, it was lifting a valuable painting from an exhibition. No problem.

Their latest target was a million pound car – a prototype of the new TVR – which the gang



**CRIME GANG:** Heist team have pinched viewers for Channel 4

hijacked when it was transported to a former Air Force base in Suffolk, where it was to be stored before being tested the next day.

Terry Smith, a retired armed robber who has rapidly become the star of the show, set up a fake security hut and barrier and roped in a muscular minder who looked like the third Mitchell brother to pose as a guard.

Computer hacker Matthew Bevan (once accused of breaking into the systems of NATO, NASA and the Pentagon) planted a tracking device in the lorry that was carrying the car.

Everything depended on luring the driver out of his cab, on the pretext of a call from his boss.

"We're not allowed to use violence or threats of violence in any of these shows," explained Terry. "Which is a bit of a gutter for me, because that was really my forte."

It all went like clockwork and the car was soon on a ferry to Belgium. What's missing from **The Heist** is a glamorous femme fatale on the team, who two of them could squabble over. Unfortunately, they're all ugly blokes.

Also, they haven't fallen out and had a fight yet. But apart from these minor quibbles, it's a better drama than most. Elsewhere on

Four, the final curtain for **Peep Show** and the last leg of **Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere** has opened up a yawning chasm on Friday nights.

Max and Paddy's life-threatening encounter with Billy "The Butcher" Shannon was a bit disappointing.

But the pay-off as the closing titles rolled was a classic: "You might be my best friend, Paddy, but I'm not sucking a bullet out of your a\*\*."

On **Peep Show**, Nancy married loser Jez so that she could wangle herself a visa to stay in the country. It fell to Jez's repressed flatmate Mark to deliver a typically inept speech. "In ancient Rome, they had Cupid," said Mark. "In modern days, it's the Home Office. Love is blind."

Amid gales of laughter, he added: "That's not a joke about David Blunkett..." Topical or what?



### It's bard for gays

DAFYDD in **Little Britain** (Friday, BBC1), not surprised that he failed to land a part in **Hamlet**: "It's very difficult for gay people to make it in the theatre. I'm sorry, but I cannot think of a single gay actor."

### CLANGER OF THE WEEK

NO wonder Shelley, **Coronation Street**'s human doormat, is confused by charmless Charlie. After their night out at Dev and Sunita's, his stubby chin was suddenly clean-shaven.

Like William Foster of Hexham, you could win £50 by sending any gaffer you spot to TV Clangers, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN.

Use a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope, fax to 0871 4347921 or e-mail [charlie.catchpole@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:charlie.catchpole@dailystar.co.uk)

**THIRSTY** punter in the Queen Vic in Monday's **EastEnders**: "I've never seen such a shambles." Try watching it three times a week, mate.

## RON'S WRONG

**WHAT Ron Said** (Monday, BBC1) demonstrated that denial is not just a river in Egypt.

Looking back on the night in Monaco when he was heard applying the n-word to Marcel Desailly of Chelsea and France, Ron Atkinson described the fateful moment when he "apparently made the alleged remark".

Ron, Ron. There was no "apparently" or "alleged" about it. The programme

replayed the tape: "That is what's known in some schools as a f\*\*\*ing lazy, thick n\*\*\*er." Ron was flown to the States so he could learn about black culture, and maybe understand the malevolent power of that six-letter word.

Back in England, Ron told a scary bunch of admirers that if he'd made the last word "frog", it wouldn't have mattered. Give me strength. Does he still not get it?

You did do wrong, Ron.

**GULP!** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall on **50 Things To Eat Before You Die** (Wednesday, BBC1): "Sea urchins really are an aphrodisiac. I once ate 40 at a sitting and I can tell you I was ready for anything... or anyone."

**IF** curvy Kerry Katona wasn't depressed before she went on **Stars In Their Eyes Celebrity Christmas Special** (Saturday, ITV1), she should have been by the time it was all over. Her hip-swinging, lip-wobbling Marilyn Monroe was beaten by the barmaid from **Heartbeat**, who was Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree as Brenda Lee.

Of course, Monroe's special appeal as a singer was that she couldn't really sing. So it was the perfect choice then.

**FRIGHT** night: Sight of Lisa Minnelli on **The Royal Variety Performance** (Wednesday, BBC1). Quick, nurse! Screens!

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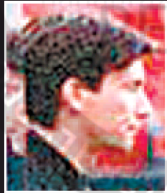
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# HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!



LET-OFF: Christopher Chambers and his smashed-up Ferrari Maranello

## Top lawyer beats drink rap

**ROAD safety campaigners were furious last night after the lawyer dubbed Mr Loophole got another wealthy client off a drink-drive rap.**

Legal-eagle Nick Freeman successfully defended millionaire Christopher Chambers despite a court being told his client was one-and-a-half times over the limit after a crash.

Company boss Chambers, 34, smashed his £180,000 Ferrari Maranello into a wall as he sped down a country lane to his £1million mansion.

The written-off car then spun into the path of a taxi, which hit the wreckage.

Chambers, from Burnley, Lancs, failed a breath test after the midnight crash.

But Mr Freeman, who focuses on the police's handling of cases, argued that the breathalyser had not been checked properly. Mike



LOOPHOLE: Nick Freeman

■ EXCLUSIVE by TOM SAVAGE

Jobbins, chairman of The Campaign Against Drink-Driving, said last night: "I find it both baffling and utterly appalling that something like this can be allowed to happen."

In the latest case, Blackburn magistrates also ordered that Mr Chambers' undisclosed legal costs – estimated to run into thousands – be met by the taxpayer.

### Racing

Mr Freeman said: "My client has found the case very traumatic and is relieved to put these proceedings behind him."

Mr Freeman, 47, has also represented England skipper David Beckham, 29, and Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson.

Speeding Fergie, 62, argued he was racing home because of a tummy bug. Beckham got off a speed rap saying he was being chased by a photographer.



## Tracy's Rob is Mr Right

■ EASTENDERS star Tracy-Anne Oberman, 35, who stars as Chrissie Watts, was all smiles yesterday after marrying music producer Rob Cowan, 38, at London's posh Millennium Hotel.

Picture: PA

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Limited offers subject to status, availability and a 12 month (18 months for Vodafone Anytime 200) contract through Dial-a-Phone (including 30 day notice period). Calls may be recorded. \* Payment by direct debit is mandatory. 3 Offers: 1. The free 500 and 750 mins apply to peak or off-peak voice calls to standard UK landlines and other UK networks. 2. For all calls to other 3 mobiles. 3. 3 months line rental will be debited automatically at half price, plus on Vodafone 500 tariff, a further £25.35 cashback available by redemption at month 3, £31.53 by redemption at month 6 and £61.55 by redemption at month 9. For Talk & Text 500 tariff, a further £31.53 cashback available by redemption at month 3, £37.63 cashback by redemption at month 6 and £71.02 cashback available by redemption at month 9. For Talk & Text 900 tariff, a further £46.53 cashback available by redemption at month 3, £56.53 cashback by redemption at month 6 and £71.02 cashback available by redemption at month 9. \* Excluding times and six day games, i.e. self, SMS, alerts and certain future content. Vodafone Offers: 1. The free 200 mins apply to peak or off-peak calls to standard UK landlines and other UK networks. 2. Applies to Vodafone and standard UK landlines. 3. 3 months half price line rental as £45 cashback redeemable at month 3. 4. For Samsung E800, 4 months half price line rental as £60 cashback redeemable at month 6. For Siemens SL65, 3 months half price line rental as £45 cashback redeemable at month 6. 5. The free 750 mins apply to off-peak calls to standard UK landlines or other T-Mobiles. Standard call charges 40p per min. 6. Off-peak for all local, national landline calls and to other T-Mobiles. 7. 6 months half price line rental credited automatically to your airtime account. Plus, £16.05 cashback is available by redemption at month 3, plus £30.00 cashback is available by redemption at month 6. 8. Samsung E800 has no leather carry case or in car adaptor. Samsung E820 has no leather carry case or in car adaptor. Siemens SL65 and Motorola E550 only have in car holder. Samsung E330 has no leather carry case or in car adaptor. Offers only available in mainland UK & Ireland. Free next day deliveries (Mon-Fri) normally available till 3pm. Saturday and special deliveries subject to availability and surcharge. Errors and omissions excepted. Terms and conditions: 1. The price match comparison must be identical, i.e. exactly the same brand new phone on the same network and price plan. 2. We must be able to verify the offer, and the handset must be available for immediate delivery. 3. You can claim at any time within your 14 day peace of mind period. See web for more details. Written terms and conditions available on request. Dial-a-Phone Ltd, 53-79 Highgate Road, London NW5 1TL.

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Tarts, pink  
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Diva 0207 323  
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knickers from  
Pink Piranha  
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1100.

**SLINKY:** Pink  
bustier and  
skirt from Diva  
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700 700.

**Pictures:**  
**Jeany Savage.**  
**Hair & Make-up:**  
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